

MAB 083
5 October 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--September 1981

I. GENERAL

From 1 to 3 October a U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer, the USS Conyngham, paid an official visit to Abidjan. The Conyngham is part of a small task force visiting various West African ports before beginning a six-month tour of duty with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. Personnel from the ship gave guided tours during open houses held on the 2d and 3d. FBIS and other Mission staff employees provided evening meals and lunches and went on shopping expeditions with seamen from the Conyngham. In addition, Bureau Engineer [] located some needed electronics parts on the STAT local market for the ship's long-range radar system. Also in Abidjan in conjunction with the Conyngham's visit was Admiral Harry Train, Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet. Admiral Train and Ambassador Rawls cohosted a large reception at the Ambassador's residence on 1 October, which was attended by most Americans in Abidjan, a large number of officers from the Conyngham, and many high-level Ivorian officials.

II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

A. September was a busy month for the bureau operationally. A coup in the Central African Republic, a state of emergency in Sierra Leone brought on by continuing labor unrest, and a meeting in Lagos of the "frontline" states--those that consider themselves in the forefront in opposing South Africa--contributed to a word count that reached over 234,000. This is the highest wordage in the bureau's history, and the second consecutive month that wordage has surpassed 200,000.

B. The bureau's reception of Angola's official press agency, ANGOP, and Luanda Domestic Service newscasts in French and English improved markedly during September. At this time the bureau receives a morning ANGOP transmission in Portuguese and French with good reception. Reception of the newscasts in French and English is usually fair. As a result of the improved reception the bureau was able to file over 5,000 words of Angolan-source material during the month. ✓

III. PERSONNEL

A. Monitor [] returned to duty following two months of leave without pay on 7 September. STAT

B. Deputy Chief [] returned from annual leave in Kenya on 24 September. London Bureau Associate Editor [] who was filling in for Ben, completed his TDY and returned to England on the 25th. STAT
STAT

IV. VISITS

A. Headquarters B&F Officer [] visited the bureau from 18-22 September. Maurice provided valuable guidance in financial and property record keeping, and insights into budget preparation in general. STAT

B. Ambassador Rawls paid a courtesy visit to the bureau on 29 September. She chatted with all of the bureau employees who were on duty at the time, and said she is pleased that FBIS has become an important part of the U.S. Mission in Abidjan.

[] STAT
Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachments

1. Engineering Report
2. Monthly Production Report

ENGINEERING REPORT-SEPTEMBER 1981

The press rack, containing receivers and teletype demodulators, was rewired to eliminate the last BNC "T" connector and remove barrel connectors. Cables have been shortened, dressed and tie-wrapped so that it is apparent at a glance how the equipment is configured.

The multicoupler rack has been rearranged to utilize the 1X1Ø multi-couplers which have more ports for the antennas used by press receivers #1 and 2. This eliminates BNC "T" connectors which paralleled two receivers on the same antenna. Additional matrix switches were installed for the two WJ 8718 receivers in the cruising room. Wires and cables were dressed and tie-wrapped to facilitate servicing.

Our BBH-160 ferrite loop antenna has been refurbished and put back in service. It provides an alternate for the active whip antenna, which is used mostly for medium-wave reception.

We are now using a standard level 1,000 cycle test tape to evaluate and do head alignment on recorders and transcription machines.

During and after visit by B&F TDYer [redacted] we reconstructed property records and made 1331 material record cards for all property.

STAT

At the request of the embassy, we located and purchased electronic parts for the USS Conyngham's SPS-40 radar.

[redacted]

STAT

Engineer, Abidjan Bureau

cc: [redacted] London Bureau

STAT